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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 198322

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ORIGIN SS-14

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 /015 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:DFINNERTY
APPROVED BY:S/S-O:WNEWLIN
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O 050609Z OCT 73 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 114

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 11632 SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC
TOKYO, INFO ISLAMABAD, LONDON, TEHRAN, BOMBAY, CALCUTTA,
MADRAS OCTOBER 4, 1973: QUOTE

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TOKYO FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IN,;ZPK, US
SUBJECT: PRESS TRUST OF INDIA REPORTS US RECOGNIZES INDIA'S
DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS OF HIGHER ORDER THAN PAKISTAN'S, KISSINGER
TO VISIT INDIA

1. A PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) LEAD ITEM FROM WASHINGTON
STRINGER CHAKRAPANI DATED OCTOBER 3 REPORTED THAT DURING DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN SWARAN SINGH AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, "THE US SIDE
CONCEDED THAT THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF MILITARY PARITY
BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN." THE STORY SAID THAT IN ANSWER
TO SINGH'S REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON US ARMS POLICY,
"AN ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY DR. KISSINGER THAT THE UNITED
STATES ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THAT INDIA'S DEFENCE REQUIREMENTS
WERE OF A MUCH HIGHER ORDER THAN THOSE OF PAKISTAN. HE WAS
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ALSO TOLD THAT THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION NEVER SUPPORTED

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THE CONCEPT OF EQUAL MILITARY STRENGTH BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
ON THE QUESTION OF ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN, THE US SIDE REPEATED
ITS EARLIER ASSURANCE THAT,'THERE IS NO CHANGE' IN ITS PRESENT
POLICY OF STRICTLY CONFINING SUPPLIES ONLY TO NON-LETHAL ITEMS
AND SPARE PARTS TO EQUIPMENT ALREADY SUPPLIED."

2. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SIX HELICOPTERS LEFT IN PAKISTAN AFTER
USE IN FLOOD RELIEF, THE PTI STORY COMMENTED: "THESE HELICOPTERS
WERE USED IN THE VIETNAM WAR FOR TRANSPORT OF TROOPS AS WELL AS
GUNS. THE US SIDE TOLD Q E SWARAN SINGH THAT THEY WERE
'UNARMED' HELICOPTERS AND DID NOT COME UNDER THE CATEGORY OF
'LETHAL ITEMS.' THEY WERE BEING GIVEN TO PAKISTAN TO COPE WITH
RELIEF AND OTHER WORK ARISING FROM THE UNPRECEDENTED FLOOD
SITUATION."

3. ANOTHER PTI STORY SAID SINGH HAD INVITED DR. KISSINGER
TO VISIT INDIA, AND THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED. IT SAID THAT THE DATE
WOULD BE ANNOUNCED "IN DUE COURSE."
SCHNEIDER UNQUOTE PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE198322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:DFINNERTY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731047/aaaabilz.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS TRUST OF INDIA REPORTS US RECOGNIZES INDIA'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS OF HIGHER ORDER THAN PAKISTAN'S, KISSINGER
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IN, PK, US, PTI, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
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Type: TE
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